

Attachment D: Wanaka Airport – Consultation Plan

Objectives

1. Undertake the statutory consultation on the proposed change of governance arrangements for the Wanaka Airport, in accordance with our Significance and Engagement Policy and all legal requirements;
2. Ensure that all stakeholders and affected parties have the level of detail they need to make an informed submission;
3. Ensure that information is available to the Wanaka community and also the residents and ratepayers of the wider district so that they understand the issues and can make a submission if they wish.

Background

QLDC is considering changing the ownership and governance arrangements for the Wanaka Airport. The Council owns the land on which Wanaka Airport sits, the airport-related infrastructure (runway etc) and various buildings on the site. Some of the buildings and hangars are owned privately but subject to ground leases granted by the Council.

The strategic management of the Wanaka airport has been delegated to a committee of Councillors through the Wanaka Airport Management Committee, while the day to day operations are undertaken by Queenstown Airport Corporation under a management agreement. (QAC is 75.01% owned by QLDC as a Council Controlled Trading Organisation.) The Council is responsible for funding capital projects.

At the moment Wanaka Airport generates about \$230,000 annual earnings before interest and tax, which is largely from landing fees and ground rents. The Council's long-term plan has a total capital programme of \$1.5M for Wanaka Airport. This level of investment is reactive only and is required to maintain existing infrastructure. It is insufficient to achieve the development required over the next decade or more to provide for the expected growth of the Airport.

The intention is to make better provision for the airport's future development.

Options that the Council is considering are:

- Sale of the airport to QAC
- Lease to QAC
- Lease or sale to QAC, including Glenorchy airstrip
- Status quo with enhanced planning and governance
- Status quo (renew the lease to QAC on substantially the same terms as currently)

Lease of the airport to QAC is the Council's preferred option.

The Council has also identified that selling Wanaka airport on the open market was an option. This is not under consideration and does not form part of the consultation as it would result in misaligned objectives for the Queenstown and Wanaka airports; competition between them and poor overall outcomes for the community.

Stakeholders and Target Audiences

1. Queenstown Airport Corporation
2. Leaseholders of Wanaka Airport
3. Tenants of Wanaka Airport (including NASA)

4. Staff employed by QAC based at Wanaka Airport
5. Air services operators who are potential users (including major airlines, regional airlines and bush pilots)
6. Warbirds over Wanaka
7. Neighbours (residents and landowners)
8. Civil Aviation Authority
9. Emergency services
10. Upper Clutha business community
 - a. Wanaka Chamber of Commerce (and its members)
 - b. Lake Wanaka Tourism (and its members)
 - c. The Cell
11. Wanaka Community Board
12. Small Community Associations / Residents' Association
 - a. Albert Town
 - b. Hawea
 - c. Luggate
 - d. Makarora
 - e. Cardrona
 - f. Wanaka
 - g. Mt Barker
13. Residents and ratepayers – Wanaka Ward and whole of QLDC
14. Media

Consultation Methods

What	When
Media briefing for Wanaka-based media (ODT, Radio Wanaka, Wanaka Sun, Wanaka App, CO News, Southland Times / Mirror)	26 September
Media release following briefing	26 September
Consultation document on the QLDC website	30 September
Consultation document in QLDC offices and libraries	30 September
Public notices ODT, Wanaka Sun	1 October
Consultation document published in Scuttlebutt and distributed to all ratepayers and residents	26-27 October
Direct contact with airport stakeholders identified in the consultation plan – includes email / letter and invitation to meet and discuss (dependent on outcome of the Council's consideration of the report and its recommendations)	Introductory email on 26 September including media release Formal consultation Initiated 30 September
Direct contact with business community in Wanaka and Queenstown	Introductory email on 26 September including media release Formal consultation Initiated 30 September
Newspaper advertisements – ODT / Wanaka Sun / Mirror – draws attention to the consultation and the submission opportunity	5-6 October, 26-27 October and again 1 week before the close of submissions
Information session(s) – in Wanaka at the airport (for airport tenants as above; for local residents; for the public)	TBC during the consultation period
Social media posts (QLDC and Wanaka-based community FB pages) draw attention to online consultation material	From 1 October

Recommended Timeframe

Date	Action
29 September	Council considers and adopts the Statement of Proposal, with any amendments
1 October	Consultation begins
18 November	Submissions close
<i>Suggested 21-25 November</i>	Staff analyse submissions, prepare hearings report and schedule hearings according to the direction of the incoming council
<i>8-9 December</i>	Earliest possible date for hearings and deliberations
<i>December TBC</i>	Depending on the date of the December Council meeting, the report and recommendations of the hearings panel could be considered at an ordinary or extraordinary meeting